issue price of levy sugar are fixed by the Central Government. These prices are determined keeping in view the relevant legal provisions and aim at harmonising the interests of the farmers, industry and the consumers.

Suffer stock of wheat

1400. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the target set for the buffer stock of wheat ;

(b) what were the stocks of foodgrains during the last six months ;

(c) the reasons for the dismal stock position in spite of good crop ; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the stock position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) According to the Buffer Stocking Policy norms, the stocks of Wheat with the Public Agencies on different dates in a year should be as under :—

(Million Tonnes)

Date	Minimum Stocks
1st April	3.7
1st July	13.1
1st October	10.6
1st January	7.7

(b) The estimated stocks of foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Coarsegrains) with the Public Agencies during the last six months were as under :—

(Million Tonnes)

Date	Stocks of foodgrains
1-11-1991	14.9
1-12-1991	14.6
1-1-1992	14.7
1-2-1992	14.5
1-3-1992	13.4
1-4-1992	12.1

(c) The stocks of Wheat and Rice with Public Agencies as on 1st April, 1992 were about 12.1 million tonnes as against the minimum level of 14.5 million tonnes prescribed under the Buffer Stocking Policy. The shortfall is mainly due to less procurement of Wheat and Rice during 1991-92 as compared to the procurement during 1990-91, higher allocation and offtake of Wheat and Rice for PDS during 1991-92 and open sale of Wheat by FCI to curb the price rise.

(d) In order to maximise procurement of wheat during the current marketing season, the Government have taken various steps like increase in the minimum support price to Rs. 250 per quintal in 1992-93 from Rs. 225 per quintal in 1991-92 grant of bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal to farmers giving their stocks to FCI and Government agencies during April and May, 1992, increase in number of purchase centres in major procuring States, reduction in stock-holding limits of Wheat and Rice by the wholesalers, retailers and Roller Flour Mills etc. It is also proposed to take effective measures during the coming kharif season to maximise the procurement of Paddy and Rice.

Procurement of wheat and rice

1401. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of adequate quantity of foodgrains production in the country since last year Government agencies have not been able to purchase wheat and rice as per the fixed targets ;

(b) if so, what was the target fixed for the purchase of wheat and rice for the year 1991-92 and the target fixed for the same for the current year 1992-93;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the indications available so far